

RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S COMPUTER & INTERNET DICTIONARY

Third Edition

Philip E. Margolis



Random House
New York

Random House Webster's Computer & Internet Dictionary, Third Edition

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double supertwist See *uri*.

down Not working. A computer is *down* when it is not available to users. This can be because it is broken (that is, it has crashed), or because it has been made temporarily unavailable to users so that routine servicing can be performed.

⇒ See also CRASH.

download To copy data (usually an entire file) from a main source to a peripheral device. The term is often used to describe the process of copying a file from an online service or *bulletin board service (BBS)* to one's own computer. Downloading can also refer to copying a file from a network file server to a computer on the network.

In addition, the term is used to describe the process of loading a font into a laser printer. The font is first copied from a disk to the printer's local memory. A font that has been downloaded like this is called a *soft font* to distinguish it from the *hard fonts* that are permanently in the printer's memory.

The opposite of download is *upload*, which means to copy a file from your own computer to another computer.

⇒ See also ANONYMOUS FTP; BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM; FONT; ONLINE SERVICE; UPLOAD.

downloadable font Same as *SOFT FONT*.

downward compatible Same as *BACKWARD COMPATIBLE*.

DP See *DATA PROCESSING*.

dpi Abbreviation of *d(ots) p(er) i(nch)*, which indicates the resolution of images. The more dots per inch, the higher the resolution. A common resolution for laser printers is 600 dots per inch. This means 600 dots across and 600 dots down, so there are 360,000 dots per square inch.

⇒ See also DOT; LASER PRINTER; RESOLUTION.

draft mode A printing mode in which the printer prints text as fast as possible without regard to the print quality. Most dot-matrix printers support two modes: draft mode and either *letter-quality (LQ)* or *near letter quality (NLQ)* mode. In addition, many word processors support a draft mode in which they display and print pages without all the formatting detail specified for the document.

⇒ See also DOT-MATRIX PRINTER; LETTER QUALITY (LQ); NEAR LETTER QUALITY.

draft quality Describes print whose quality is less than *near letter quality*. Most 9-pin dot-matrix printers produce draft-quality print.

AppleTalk An inexpensive local-area network (LAN) architecture built into all Apple Macintosh computers and laser printers. AppleTalk supports Apple's *LocalTalk* cabling scheme, as well as Ethernet and IBM Token Ring. It can connect Macintosh computers and printers, and even PCs if they are equipped with special AppleTalk hardware and software.

⇒ See also LOCAL-AREA NETWORK; LOCALTALK; MACINTOSH COMPUTER; TOPOLOGY.

application A program or group of programs designed for end users. Software can be divided into two general classes: *systems software* and *applications software*. Systems software consists of low-level programs that interact with the computer at a very basic level. This includes operating systems, compilers, and utilities for managing computer resources.

In contrast, applications software (also called *end-user programs*) includes database programs, word processors, and spreadsheets. Figuratively speaking, applications software sits on top of systems software because it is unable to run without the operating system and system utilities.

⇒ See also APPLET; APPLICATION SHARING; DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM; END USER; IDE; LEGACY APPLICATION; OPERATING SYSTEM; SOFTWARE; SOFTWARE LICENSING; SPREADSHEET; SYSTEMS SOFTWARE; UTILITY; WORD PROCESSOR.

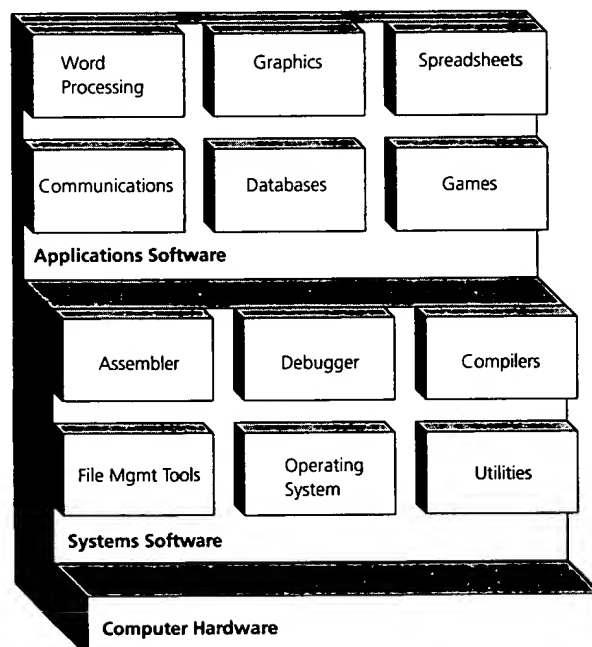


Figure 5: applications software and systems software

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